

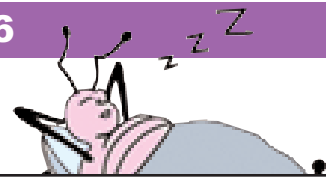
# indykids

Issue #3



March/April 2006

A FREE PAPER FOR FREE KIDS



“THE MOUNTAINS HAVE BEEN CARVED UP LIKE SWISS CHEESE FROM UNDERGROUND MINING. A FLOOD DESTROYED FIVE ACRES OF OUR PROPERTY.”

—Chrystal Gunnoe, sixth grader, West Virginia



## Coalfield Kid



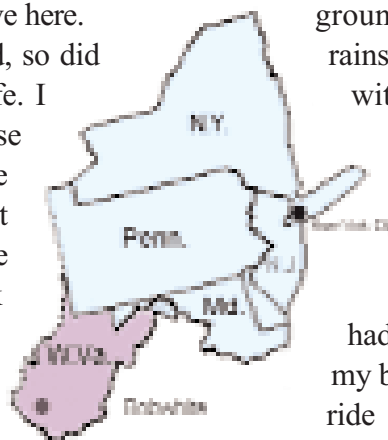
The flooding left a 20-foot-deep hole through the middle of the Gunnoe property. Five acres were washed away by floodwaters.

By CHRYSTAL GUNNOE

Hello. My name is Chrystal Gunnoe. I live in West Virginia. My hometown is in the heart of the coalfields. The coalfields are where most of the coal comes from that provides energy for the rest of the country. Mountaintop Removal (MTR) is a new, dangerous and destructive method of extracting coal. Three million pounds of explosives are used per day to blow off the tops of the mountains to expose the coal inside. MTR is destroying the coalfields

and the people who live here.

When MTR started, so did the changes in my life. I started noticing these changes very fast. The water from our faucet tasted different, like metal. Coal and rock dust from the deafening blasts cover everything in our home. Our yard was eroding from flooding. Flooding happens because the mountains have been carved up like Swiss cheese from under-



ground mining. Hard rains land on bare rock with nowhere to go besides downstream, flooding the valleys below. Because of the flooding, I had less room to ride my bike, and when I did ride my bike, I had to walk it to a safe place to ride.

Until the flood of June 16, 2003, which destroyed five acres of our property, I didn't know what was happening. But then it was like a

wall of information hitting me—I began to understand that MTR was not good. I wanted to tell people about it. I did a science fair project on MTR. I brought in a video documentary called Kilowatt Ours ([www.kilowattours.org](http://www.kilowattours.org)) to show my class and I talked to my friends about MTR. One of my friends got interested in MTR with me. She told her grandmother; now she's interested too.

Chrystal Gunnoe is a sixth grader at Van Junior High School. She lives with her parents and older brother Jessie in Bobwhite, West Virginia.

## Miner Deaths Highlight Need for Better Safety

**COAL MINING** is a dangerous job. Mine safety gained national attention when 12 miners were killed in an explosion on January 2 at the Sago Mine in West Virginia. So far this year, a total of 19

miners have been killed at work in West Virginia, Kentucky and Utah.

The recent deaths have highlighted the need for better mine safety regulations. One new law

in West Virginia requires underground oxygen supplies so that miners will be able to breathe if they are trapped inside a mine, allowing more time for their rescue.



# FILLING THE SUPREME COURT

The nine justices (judges) of the United States Supreme Court decide cases that relate directly to the U.S. Constitution, and cases that affect the future for many people. It's a very important job. To become a Supreme Court Justice, a person must be nominated by the president and then confirmed by the Senate. Once a judge becomes a Supreme Court Justice, he or she holds the position for life.

In 2005, Chief Justice William

Rehnquist died and Associate Justice Sandra Day O'Connor retired. There were two spots to fill in a short amount of time.

First, President Bush appointed Judge John Roberts. Judge Roberts grew up in Indiana and had worked for President Reagan in the 1980s, where critics say he attempted to limit civil rights, voting rights and women's rights. In the Senate hearings, Roberts said that he would respect "precedent," which means he


will use past cases to help him decide how to rule on future cases. Roberts was sworn in as Chief Justice in September 2005. At age 50, he is the youngest Justice.

Bush also nominated Judge Samuel Alito, a Trenton, New Jersey native who has worked for the U.S. and New Jersey governments for almost 30 years. He is considered "right wing" because many of his opinions agree with the Republican party, and many people worry that



his views on many issues, such as privacy rights, presidential power and environmental policy, will sway the court in an ultra-conservative direction. Judge Alito was sworn in as a Supreme Court Justice in January 2006.

-AG



## SPY PROGRAM UNCOVERED: Who's Listening In?

By AMANDA VENDER

**IN EARLY 1971**, a group of people called the Citizens Committee to Investigate the FBI broke into a Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) office, stole documents, and released them to the press. The documents showed that the U.S. government had a secret program of spying on U.S. citizens, particularly civil rights and anti-war activists.


People were very angry about this program and as a result, in 1978 Congress passed a law that said that in order for the government to spy on people in the U.S., it first needs to get a warrant (approval) from a group of lawyers.


In December 2005, journalists found that the U.S. government is still spying without getting warrants. Government agents listen to private phone calls and read private email messages. President Bush says the spying is necessary to find terrorists. He says that getting a warrant takes too much time, and that the government is only spying on people who have links to terrorism.

However, newly released documents show that government agents have monitored and infiltrated several non-violent activist groups. To "infiltrate" means that secret government agents pretend to be volunteers with organizations in order to spy on their activities. The New York Times reported that many law enforcement officials said that most of the people they spied on were innocent.

Congress is holding hearings to investigate whether Bush broke the law when he ordered the spy operations. There are now new debates over how much power the president should have. Is it okay for the president to break the law when he says he is only protecting U.S. citizens? What do you think?

Write to IndyKids at [indykids@indymedia.org](mailto:indykids@indymedia.org)





GARY MARTIN

**indykids**

PHONE: 212-592-0116

EMAIL: [indykids@indymedia.org](mailto:indykids@indymedia.org)

WEBSITE: [www.indykids.org](http://www.indykids.org)

MAIL:

IndyKids

P.O. Box 1417

New York, NY 10276

#### WHAT IS INDYKIDS?

IndyKids is a free newspaper that aims to inform children on current news and world events from a progressive perspective and to inspire in children a passion for social justice and learning. IndyKids is funded through donations.

#### HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

Just contact IndyKids! IndyKids relies on volunteers. Adults and kids can write articles, take photos, contribute artwork and help distribute the paper.

Editors: Abby Gross, Amanda Vender

Design & Layout: Dave Baker

Website: Leticia John, Brian Garcia • Webhosting: Cary Shapiro

#### WHERE CAN I GET COPIES OF INDYKIDS?

REVOLUTION BOOKS  
9 W 19th St (between 5th & 6th Avenues)  
Manhattan, 212-691-3345



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puzzle

#### THANK YOU to the following donors for supporting IndyKids!

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Elaine Blume		

Thank you to the Queens Public Library and the New York Collective of Radical Educators for help in distributing IndyKids.



# Immigrants Challenge New Bill

**A CONTROVERSIAL NEW** immigration bill will go to the Senate for a vote this spring. The bill, HR 4437, would criminalize 12 million undocumented immigrants.\*

This means the police could arrest undocumented immigrants, and they would be deported and barred them from returning to the U.S. With this bill, anyone who helps undocumented immigrants would be considered a criminal too. The bill would also put a long fence on the U.S.-Mexico border. Supporters of the bill say that these measures are needed to protect U.S. border



Immigrants write letters to Senator Schumer at the Immigrant Justice Fair.

security.

Immigrant organizations in Queens held an Immigrant Justice Fair on February 11 with food, music and letter-writing to New York Senator Charles Schumer to urge him to vote against the bill.

"It is almost impossible to get documents to work in the U.S.

But we still have to work to be able to send money to our families. There are no jobs in our home countries," said Linda Abad of DAMAYAN, an association of Filipino nannies and housekeepers.

-AV

\*Undocumented immigrants: People from other countries who do not have legal documents to be in the U.S.

# Transit Workers Strike

By ESTHER WANG

**W**hen you get on the bus or ride the trains, you see the people who keep cities running—bus drivers, subway conductors, and other "transit workers" who in New York City are employed by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA). But transit workers often don't get what they deserve.

Luckily the Transport Workers Union (TWU) helps them fight for their rights, and in December 2005 the New York City TWU voted to go on strike (stop working until needs are met) because, said TWU President Roger Toussaint, they "are tired of being disrespected." They were working without a contract, meaning their salaries hadn't been raised in years.

For three days, the strike shut down New York City. Finally, the MTA decided to offer the workers what they wanted—a new contract, fairer pay, pensions, and better, though more expensive, health care.

But the transit workers did not vote to keep the contract. Many believe they should not have to pay for health care, and if they start paying a little, they will eventually have to pay a lot.

When you see transit workers, let them know you support them!

Union: A group of people with similar jobs who work together to fight for their rights. Pension: Money workers put aside when they work and get after they stop working.

# India-China Friendship Year

**I**ndia and China don't seem at all alike. When you look at the differences between their governments, religions, and even their climates, the two countries seem to share only the fact that they exist on the same continent.

But India and China have a reason to interact. They are two of the most populated nations in the world. Unfortunately, for a long time the two

countries have been at odds for a variety of political reasons.

India and China are both becoming stronger countries. They want to get along, especially if cooperation will lead to stronger economies. Therefore, they are calling 2006 "Friendship Year." Many cultural events are taking place in both countries, with the goal of bringing Indian and Chinese people together.



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Leaders from the countries hope that 2006 will signal the start of a peaceful and prosperous relationship. -AG

# News Briefs

## WORLD

### New Hope for Bolivia



On January 22, Evo Morales was inaugurated as President of Bolivia, a very poor country in South

America. He is the first Indian to be elected Bolivia's president. Morales promises to help the Bolivian people by taking control of the country's large gas and oil reserves. Many Bolivians believe that foreign corporations make a lot of

money from Bolivia's natural resources instead of providing for the needs of the Bolivian people.

### Chile's Presidenta



Chile has elected Michelle Bachelet to be its first woman President. She is a doctor and a single mother with 3 kids. She was imprisoned and tortured under the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet. Bachelet says she wants to work for equality and forgiveness of the old dictatorship -- where only one person, Pinochet, ruled like a king.

### Controversial Toons

Cartoons that make fun of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad and showed him in a violent way were published in newspapers in Europe. The cartoons raised anger among Muslims throughout the world and led to heated protests in many countries.

## NATIONAL

### Lobby Scandal

In January, Republican lobbyist\* Jack Abramoff pleaded guilty to fraud (cheating), corruption and not paying taxes. He admitted to cheating at least



four Native American tribes of millions of dollars and giving money to government officials in exchange for favors. Abramoff has reportedly agreed to testify against several members of Congress who received these favors or donations. The scandal led to new proposals in Congress to strengthen laws against lobbyist corruption.

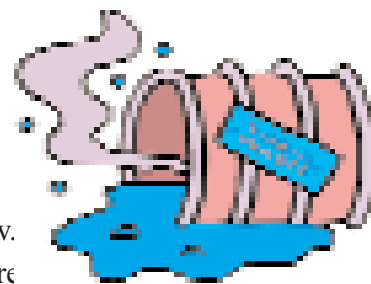
\*Lobbyist: Someone who tries to convince members of Congress, often through money and gifts, to vote for bills that the lobbyist favors.

Scientists say that 2005 was the hottest year on record. But it wasn't just heat that caused alarm; our earth was plagued by a great number of extreme natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. Experts are sure that the earth's climate and weather patterns are starting to change. But is it the fault of factories, trash and environmental neglect, or are these changes merely a part of natural processes? Many experts believe that current climate change is the fault of humans over many years.

Climate change is only one important issue affecting the environment. Polluted air, especially over cities, causes health problems for many people. Energy as we know it will have to change as oil reserves decrease and grow too expensive. Luckily, there are alternatives to oil—water, solar, and wind power, to name just a few.

In 1970 people were starting to understand that the earth is fragile and that modern trash and industry were hurting the planet. They established Earth Day to bring special attention to the environment every April 22.

These days, environmental problems cannot be acknowledged just once a year, nor can they be solved with individual efforts like recycling. Major changes must be made by governments that have enough money to fund environmentally responsible research programs and develop alternative resources. What can we do? We can urge our leaders to make smart decisions, even if the decisions mean less convenience for everyone. Otherwise, we and our children face a pretty hot future. **-AG**



# Protecting Our Environment

## Do You Feel the Heat?

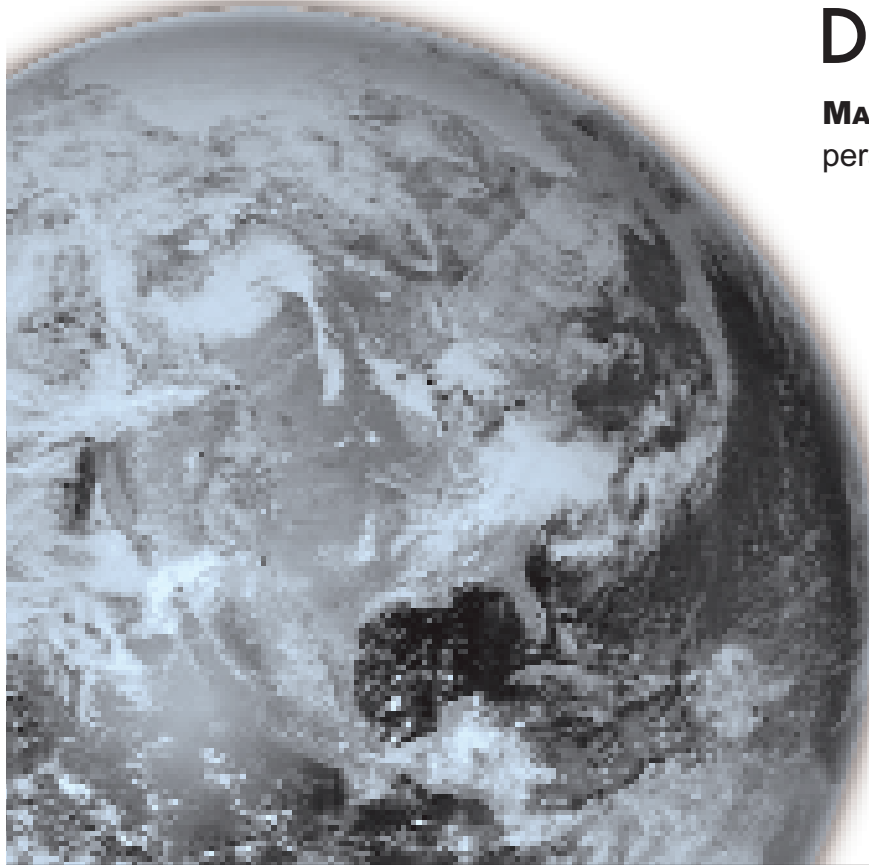
**MANY SCIENTISTS ARE** concerned that the Earth is slowly changing temperature. This is called global warming.

Planets like Earth need a delicate balance between hot and cold. If our planet changes too much, it will be hard for us to live. For example, the ice at the North and South Poles is starting to melt, making the oceans grow bigger. Cities near oceans will have more floods.

Warmer temperatures could also change the weather. Some scientists think there will be more frequent hurricanes, like the one that destroyed New Orleans in September 2005.

Why is the Earth getting warmer? Scientists say everything from trash to cars to factories is heating it up. All these things produce gases that rise and cover the earth like a blanket (or a greenhouse). Even electricity produces these greenhouse gases, since most electricity is made by burning coal and oil.

What can we do to stop global warming? Experts say we have to use electricity less, drive cars less, and find alternatives to factories that produce too much gas.



## A LOOK AT SOME ALTERNATIVES TO USING OIL

**YOU DON'T USUALLY** see it, and you don't usually touch it, but we use oil constantly, when we travel in cars or buses, when we heat our homes, even when we turn on the lights. In fact, every day, the United States uses 20 million barrels of oil. But oil will eventually run out, and what's worse, Americans are more dependent than ever on oil for energy. Yes, things have gotten a bit slippery when it comes to oil.

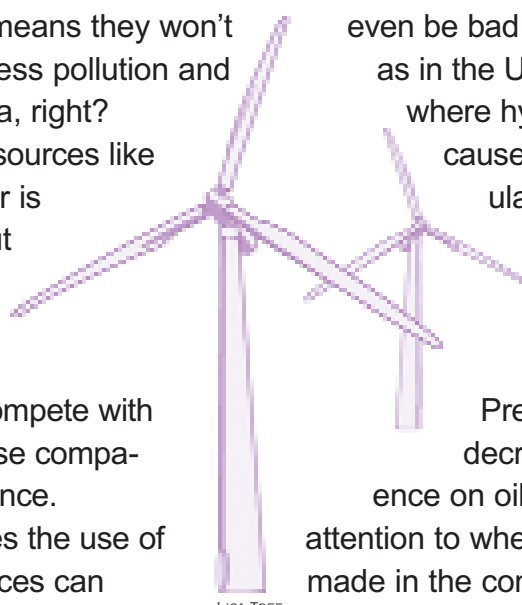
Oil is not the only way to travel and heat our homes. The sun, wind and water are a few of the other available resources that create energy. And unlike oil, these

are renewable, which means they won't run out, they produce less pollution and save money. Great idea, right?

Use of renewable resources like the sun, wind and water is indeed a great idea. But powerful oil companies do not want the development of alternative energy to compete with their business, and these companies have a lot of influence. Furthermore, sometimes the use of renewable energy sources can

even be bad for the environment, such as in the U.S. Pacific Northwest, where hydroelectric dams have caused harm to the salmon population.

Many countries have started to adopt various forms of alternate energy. In January 2006 President Bush pledged to decrease American dependence on oil, so it is important to pay attention to whether any changes are made in the coming year. **-AG**



LISA TOFF



Students at PS 202 are getting the chance to be gardeners—and help the environment.

## School Creates Urban Garden

By ABBY GROSS

**UNTIL RECENTLY**, PS 202 wasn't much to look at. In back, the East New York, Brooklyn elementary school overlooks bustling Linden Boulevard. A prominent landfill stands only a few blocks away, and the school, on a street of factories, "smelled like the dump," said Jessica D'Amato, a second grade teacher at PS 202.

Among the weeds and tires, D'Amato imagined something better. So in 2003 she and her colleagues cleared trash from the schoolyard, added grass and planted tulips, while students nurtured caterpillar cocoons indoors. Trees were planted, and that spring, flowers grew in front of PS 202. Students

were able to bring their young butterflies outside and release them into the new garden.

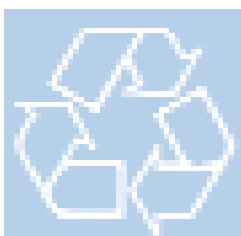
A year later, students learned how to weed, loosen dirt, dig holes and plant a variety of bulbs and seeds. "Don't hurt worms in their own house!" they often reminded each other.

In cities, gardens not only encourage teamwork, but they also help cool air and reduce heat. A recent NASA study recommended planting "urban forests" in New York City to ward off hot urban summers.

This year, ten flowering trees will be added to the now grassy and colorful area around PS 202's garden. "As the children grow and move on," said D'Amato, "their garden will always be here." **-AG**

## RECYCLING

Recycling is a great innovation, but it has drawbacks too.



### Recycling is good because:

- It is popular with the public
- It is better for the environment than burning waste or putting waste in landfills
- It helps raise public awareness about the environment

### But recycling has limitations:

- Not all of what we turn in for recycling actually gets recycled. As of the year 2000, only 26 percent of glass, 40 percent of paper and just 5 percent of plastics actually got recycled
- In spite of recycling, even greater amounts of garbage are being burned or put in landfills
- The process of recycling can produce hazardous waste
- Recycling may just make people feel better about all we consume

# Garbage Galore!

Some cultures have no word for garbage. They don't think of any object as useless. How is it that we in the U.S. can have so much garbage? And where does it all go?

### The History of Garbage

People began producing large amounts of garbage in the early 1800's, when mass production was introduced. Products like clothes or toys that at one time were made in small workshops or homes are now produced on a mass scale. In order for the company to make a profit, it must sell a lot of products. Manufacturers began to make items that would break easily or go out of style quickly, and people would buy a newer and better product. The more we buy the more profit companies make, and the more trash we make.

### Getting Rid of Trash

There is no good way to get rid of garbage. Even though we don't see trash after it is hauled away by the garbage collector, it is causing problems for other people or for people in coming generations. **Incineration**, or the burning of trash, is one way to get rid of trash. But burning trash produces smoke and toxic chemicals called dioxins that are known to cause cancer and other health problems.

Another way to get rid of trash is to put it in a **landfill**, which is a giant hole in the ground. Most of our waste in New York City gets shipped to Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia—poorer areas with more land. Hauling the trash by trucks pollutes the air and some kinds of trash release toxic wastes in the ground.

### Solutions

Most trash is created by industry. Some countries in Europe have reduced garbage production by making laws, such as one charging companies for the packaging they produce and another banning throw-away bottles.

Garbage and Recycling information from the new book by Heather Rogers, *Gone Tomorrow: The Hidden Life of Garbage*.



## Tons and Tons of Trash

The U.S. throws away more trash than any country in the world. Yet we make up a small fraction of the global population.

### Trash generated in the U.S.

236 million tons per year, or **30%** of the world's trash

Almost a third of that garbage is packaging material

### Population

The U.S. makes up only **less than 5%** of the world's population



## Bedbugs Find a Home in New York City

**H**ave you ever wondered why someone told you not to let the bedbugs bite? For almost the last fifty years, bedbugs were very rare in North America—but they're back.

The bedbug is a very old insect. In fact, bedbugs have been around since the time when humans were living in caves. Despite their name, bedbugs don't always live in beds. They like beds because of the cozy crevices inside, but they also live behind picture frames, in wall cracks, furniture and in other dark places. Adult bedbugs are about the size of apple seeds, and they are nocturnal, which means they sleep during the day and are awake at night. Since they don't have wings, they crawl; and for food, they suck human blood. Luckily, bedbug bites don't hurt—they just get a little itchy like mosquito bites.

In the 1940s and 1950s, scientists developed a pesticide\* called DDT, which helped to destroy most bedbugs in North America. Later, people discovered that DDT is dangerous to humans, and they stopped using it. Due to the banning of DDT and the fact that people travel farther and more often, bedbugs have returned, especially to New York. City leaders are now trying to stop the spread of bedbugs because these creatures are considered a major problem. Councilwoman Gail Brewer is hoping to pass a law that will make sure old and new mattresses are kept separate.

If you think you might have bedbugs in your home, tell an adult. **-AG**

\*Pesticide: Any chemical used for preventing, destroying or repelling a pest.

## A Revolutionary Theory

**DARWIN IS A** new exhibit at the American Museum of Natural History. It explores the life and discoveries of Charles Darwin, whose research led to the theory of evolution.\*

The exhibit takes us on Darwin's five-year voyage by boat, the HMS Beagle, and his studies on the Galápagos Islands. You can see live Galápagos tortoises, iguana and horned frogs, and journals, drawings and fossils that belonged to Darwin.

Darwin's theory suggested that life on earth is always changing and that life changed a lot over millions of years. Darwin also understood how different organisms are connected and helped us to under-



stand things such as how bacteria make people sick. Darwin's discoveries helped pave the way for scientists today to make new discoveries.

The exhibit is open until May 29, 2006. For information, visit: [www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/](http://www.amnh.org/exhibitions/darwin/)

\*Evolution: The theory that organisms in nature change over generations and result in the development of new species.

## Religion in Science Class?

The Darwin exhibition comes at a time when there is a battle over teaching evolution in schools. Many conservative Christians would like Intelligent Design to be taught in science classes. Intelligent Design is the theory that living organisms are so complex that they must have been designed by God.k

Exhibits like *Darwin* usually receive funding from corporations to be able to operate. But no corporation wanted to be associated with the exhibit.

## Letters

I want the troops to come back from Iraq because my cousin's friend is in Iraq fighting. He says the war is not good. Imagine another week, month or year in Iraq. More U.S. troops will die.

**KURBY, 6TH GRADE**

Secondary School for Law, Brooklyn

Wealthy countries should give more money to poorer countries. People should just help each other out more.

**LESLIE, 2ND GRADE**

PS 202, Brooklyn

I wish there was some way that I could help the people who were hurt



by the Asian Tsunami and by Hurricane Katrina.

**AARON, 2ND GRADE**

PS 202, Brooklyn

Many important people passed away in 2005. I hope that someday I can make a difference too.

## Owl Spotting in Central Park

By MOSES LEVICH

**D**id you know that there are owls living in Central Park? In fact, there are several types, including Long-eared Owls, Great Horned Owls, and Screech-Owls.

I went on a nighttime Owl Walk in Central Park with Birding Bob. His real name is Robert deCandido, and he is an ornithologist, which is a scientist who studies birds.



Birding Bob helped reintroduce the Eastern Screech-Owl to Central Park. He started this project in 1997 and now there are Screech-Owls nesting in Manhattan.

In the Owl Walk I saw two Screech-Owls and a Great Blue Heron. We spotted one reddish-brown owl in a tree. The other owl, which flew overhead, was gray. Birding Bob attracted the owls by playing a tape recording of an Eastern Screech-Owl call, which sounds like a horse whinnying.

Birding Bob conducts regular bird walks. See his website at [www.birdingbob.com/schedule.htm](http://www.birdingbob.com/schedule.htm). The cost is \$5, and you need to email him ahead of time.

Moses Levich, 9, is in the third grade at the Renaissance Charter School in Jackson Heights, Queens.

**EBONY, 2ND GRADE**

PS 202, Brooklyn

I think we should withdraw from Iraq. Bush started this war because of rumors. I am against the war. The U.S. are bullies.

**TANAYA, 6TH GRADE**

Secondary School for Law, Brooklyn

I think that the U.S. should withdraw its military from Iraq because the U.S. already got the president of Iraq. What else do they want?

**JOSE, 6TH GRADE**

Secondary School for Law, Brooklyn

We'd love to hear from you! Send your letter to: [Indykids@indymedia.org](mailto:Indykids@indymedia.org), or to Indykids, P.O. Box 1417, NY, NY 10276



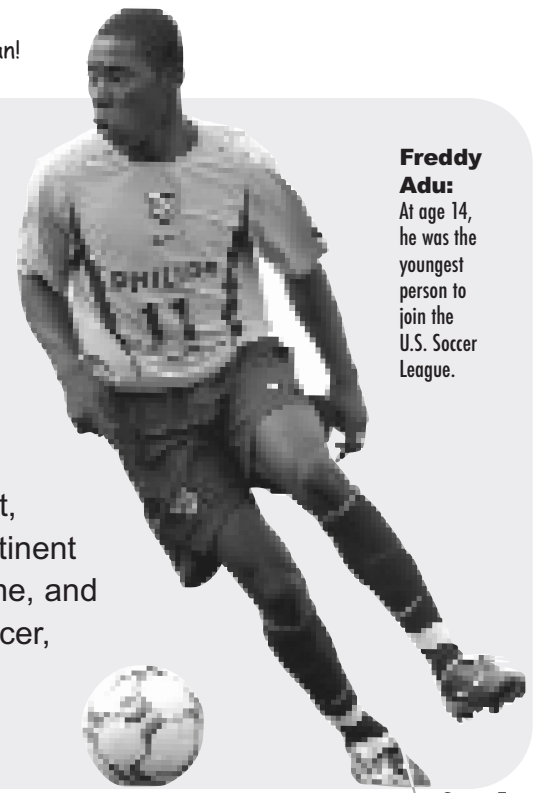
# The World Plays Soccer

**So, YOU THINK** you're a soccer expert? Do you know what *pasuck-quakkohwog* means? American folklore tells us that pilgrims who settled at Plymouth Rock met Native Americans who played pasuckquakkohwog, an early form of football.

Now, you're probably wondering what football has to do with soccer. In most of the world, soccer is called "football," but in the U.S., football is a totally different game. According to a survey by Fédération Internationale de Football

Association (FIFA), 240 million people play football (soccer) in more than 200 countries. That would make football (soccer) a bigger sport than baseball, basketball and American football combined!

No matter what they call it, people on almost every continent play and love the same game, and whether or not you play soccer, consider yourself a soccer expert! **-GF**



**Freddie Adu:**  
At age 14, he was the youngest person to join the U.S. Soccer League.

SOCCER TIMES

## KIDS FACE NEW TESTS

By EDWIN MAYORGA  
and SETH RADER

**T**his year marks the first year that all New York City public school students in grades three to eight are required to take state tests in English Language Arts (ELA) and math. These are called "high-stakes" tests because for many kids not passing could mean going to summer school or being held back.

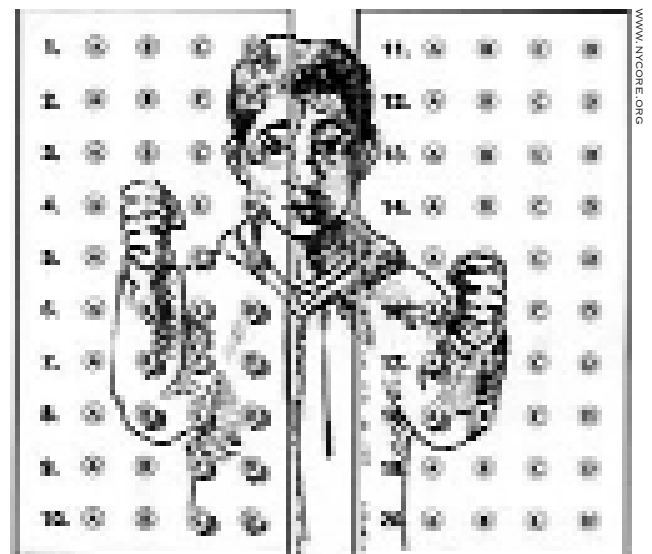
Kids around the country are facing annual testing in reading and math because of the No Child Left Behind Act. And in California parents and students are filing a court case against state education leaders because of a new test that high

school seniors must pass in order to graduate.

A seventh grade class in East Harlem had a variety of opinions about the tests. One student described the stress she experienced: "Sometimes state tests make me feel a bit nervous in school, like in the middle of the test I can feel the walls come in and gravity pushing down on me."

Many students felt that if they did not have state tests, there would be more time for activities such as art, music and physical activities. This would make kids want to stay in school. The majority of this class felt that there are better ways of evaluating what students have learned.

But some students felt that without the tests students wouldn't work hard. "If we didn't have



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state tests, kids would not worry about what we need to learn," said another student.

What would school be like without these tests? Tell us your opinion. Write to [indykids@indymedia.org](mailto:indykids@indymedia.org).

## Why Not Have a Debate?

By KELLIE GASINK

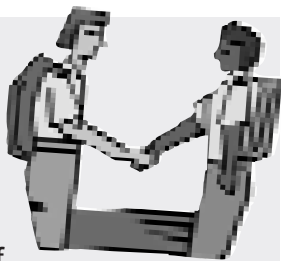
**A DEBATE IS** a discussion of different viewpoints on a particular subject. To have a debate at your school you might:

- Tell your teacher you'd like to arrange a student debate. Ask him or her for assistance to make the arrangements.
- Find out if there are any student groups at your school that can help with the debate.
- Select a debate topic. Pass out reading assignments so that participants can prepare.
- Let students choose which debate team they want to be on. There can be more than two

teams.

- Decide on a number of minutes for each student to speak and respond.
- Make announcements, such as over the loud speaker or on a written flyer, so that all students know the date, time and place of the debate.
- Have an adult facilitate the debate. Each student can speak on the topic and other students may pose questions.

Send in a report about your debate to IndyKids! Write to [indykids@indymedia.org](mailto:indykids@indymedia.org)



## Kid Voice

### An Uncle in Iraq

**How would you** feel if someone you knew was going very far away to another country, waiting for someone to maybe attack them? You'd be scared, wouldn't you? That's how I feel every day of my life when I think of my uncle who is fighting in Iraq. Knowing someone who left to fight in the war in Iraq makes me heartbroken and worried.

It all started when I was 8, and I heard from my mom that my uncle was going to Iraq. At first, I wasn't sad. But then when I went to my afterschool, I started crying. You would know how I felt if any of your relatives went to war.

I saw my uncle on TV once over Christmas, wishing us a Merry Christmas. He was very sad, and so was I. He really misses us.

I don't know why we have wars. I don't know why people choose to become soldiers and risk their lives. I don't know why this is the way problems have to be settled. There are other ways! I hate it. I wish wars never existed and that my uncle had never wanted to become a Marine. Even though I think he's safe, I still miss him.

**JANITA ROSADO, AGE 11**

# su | do | ku

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			5	2	4		7	
3			9			1		5
2				1	3		6	
	3	5						8
8	7		3		6		5	9
9						4	8	
	6		8	9				2
7		4			2			1
	8		4	3	1			

## PLAY SUDOKU!

Here's a puzzle with numbers. Do you have to use arithmetic? No! Nothing has to add up to anything else. Instead, you solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Fill in the grid so that **every row**, **every column** and **every 3x3 box** contains the digits 1 through 9, with **no repeats**. Each Sudoku puzzle has just one solution.

**Answer:** on the bottom of page 2

## GO AHEAD, SING OUT LOUD

**YOU'RE BORN.** You cry. To make you feel better, someone might sing you a lulla-by—and you're hooked. In the car, on the radio, on television, from a stereo, or at concerts, you say, "turn the music up!"

You aren't alone. All over the world and for thousands of years, people have made music for many reasons. They chant traditional melodies during serious occasions. They learn to play musical instruments so they can entertain others or celebrate. Even if you don't know how to play an instrument, you can always sing.

Try the following tips at home, and you will be able to entertain your friends and family with your unique voice. Only you can sing like you.

1. Stand up straight.
2. Breathe from your stomach, not your chest. Sounds hard? Think of it this way. When you breathe in, your stomach should get bigger. When you breathe out, your stomach should get smaller.
3. When you're singing, make vowels with your mouth, not your lips.
4. Sing all the time! The more you practice, the more fun you'll have. Just remember to stop singing when class starts! **-AG**



**Clue #1:** I weigh 1,000 pounds and am 10 feet long.

**Clue #2:** I am a vegetarian and live mostly in the shallow warm waters of the Florida coast.

**Clue #3:** I am gentle, shy and slow moving. I like to play and body surf.

**Clue #4:** My species is one of 500 endangered animal species in the U.S. There are only about 2,600 of us in the southeastern U.S. We get killed by collisions with powerboats. We also die from chemical pollution and the loss of our habitat due to human developments.

**Answer:** on the bottom of page 2

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## Mmmmm... Banana Smoothie!

**Serving Size: 1 • Equipment: electric blender, measuring cup**



### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 medium frozen banana
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup vanilla ice cream or yogurt
- A handful of berries, such as strawberries or blueberries (optional)

### PREPARATION:

Ask an adult to help you use a blender. Combine all ingredients in a blender until smooth. Serve immediately.